

Message Text

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TAGS: AORG, UNV

SUBJECT: UNV INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS, MAY 4-5, 1976

FOLLOWING CONSTITUTES GUIDANCE FOR US REPRESENTATIVES
ATTENDING UNV INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS:

ISSUE: INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH MAJOR CONTRIBUTING
STATES WILL BE HELD IN GENEVA, MAY 4-5 DURING WHICH
THE UNV SECRETARIAT WILL RAISE ISSUES IN ANTICIPATION
OF PRESENTING FORMAL PROPOSALS TO THE 22ND SESSION OF
THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL. THE FOCUS AT THIS MEETING
WILL BE UPON POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS CONCERNING
THE FUTURE FINANCING OF UNV.

BACKGROUND: UNDER ARRANGEMENTS AGREED TO IN 1972, THE
FINANCING OF IN-COUNTRY COSTS OF UNV'S WAS TO BE HANDLED
DIFFERENTLY AS BETWEEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (NON-LDC'S)
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AND LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDC'S). IN THE LATTER

CASE, SUCH COSTS WERE TO COME FROM THE UNDP PROGRAM RESERVE. IN THE CASE OF NON-LDC'S, IN-COUNTRY COSTS WERE TO BE PAID OUT OF PROJECT FUNDS, I.E. FROM THE COUNTRY IPF'S. OWING TO INCREASED FUNDING REQUIREMENTS TO DEVELOP A GROWING PROGRAM, IT WAS DECIDED IN JANUARY, 1976 THAT AS AN EXCEPTIONAL MEASURE THE RESOURCES OF THE

UNV SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND COULD BE TAPPED TO SUPPLEMENT THE DOLS 1 MILLION FROM THE PROGRAM RESERVE BEING APPLIED TO LDC IN-COUNTRY COSTS. WITH THE SPECIAL FUND DUE TO BE EXHAUSTED DURING 1976 ALONG WITH THE UNDP SPECIAL MEASURES FUND FOR LDC'S, IT WAS ALSO PROPOSED IN JANUARY THAT EXCEPTIONAL TRANSITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR 1977-78 JUSTIFIED MAKING AVAILABLE FROM THE PROGRAM RESERVE A FURTHER DOLS 1 MILLION. AFTER THIS, PRESUMABLY, UNV COSTS WOULD ALL BE CHARGED TO COUNTRY IPF'S.

DISCUSSION: UNV SEEKS ASSURED SOURCES OF FINANCING IN ORDER TO A) MAINTAIN ITS EXISTING LEVEL OF ACTIVITY; B) INCREASE THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS, ESPECIALLY IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES; C) RENDER UNV'S MORE COMPETITIVE IN THE EYES OF RECIPIENT STATES WITH ASSOCIATE EXPERTS AND BILATERAL VOLUNTEERS, NEITHER OF WHICH ARE FINANCED OUT OF COUNTRY IPF'S. UNV POINTS TO A SHORTFALL OF SOME DOLS 400,000 IN 1976 FOR A PROGRAM TO FIELD 385 UNV'S TO THE LDC'S ALONE. TO MAINTAIN A LEVEL OF 275 UNV'S IN LDC'S AS PART OF A FIELD PROGRAM FOR 425 VOLUNTEERS IN 1977, UNV ESTIMATES ITS NEEDS AS DOLS 2.4 MILLION. MOREOVER, IT IS PROPOSED TO ADD NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES TO THE ROLL OF RECIPIENTS THUS CREATING A FURTHER DRAIN ON UNDP RESOURCES, SINCE SUCH STATES WOULD DOUBTLESS QUALIFY AS LDC'S.

U.S. POSITION:

1. WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT THE GREATEST CONCENTRATION OF EFFORT SHOULD BE IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. WE WOULD SUPPORT A UNDP GC RESOLUTION SUPPORTING UNV PROGRAMS IN NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES IF THEY QUALIFY FOR ASSISTANCE ON THE SAME BASIS AS THE LDC'S.

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2. THE PARLOUS STATE OF UNDP FINANCES ARGUES AGAINST INCREASING THE BURDEN UPON ITS RESOURCES EITHER THROUGH CHANGES IN EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS OR BY INCREASING PRE-SENT COMMITMENTS. WE CANNOT, THEREFORE, AT THIS TIME ENCOURAGE A SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN THE UNV ACTIVITY OR AN EXTENSION OF ITS OBLIGATIONS TO NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES, IF THIS REQUIRES ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM THE UNDP PROGRAM RESERVE.

3. WE WOULD URGE ALL INTERESTED DONORS TO ASSIST IN STRENGTHENING THE SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND OF THE UNV (SVF) SO THAT RESOURCES CAN BE TAPPED TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN THERETOFORE. FURTHERMORE, WE WOULD URGE THOSE WHO FORMERLY SUPPORTED THE UNDP SPECIAL MEASURES FUND FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO TRANSFER SUCH SUPPORT HENCEFORTH TO THE SVF.

4. WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT UNV EFFECT ALL REASONABLE ECONOMIES, ENDEAVOR TO INCREASE SUPPORT FOR ITS PROGRAM AND NOT CALL FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FROM THE CENTRAL FUNDS OF THE UNDP DURING 1977 IN LIGHT OF THE PRESENT FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES WITHIN THE UNDP.

5. WE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE WILLING TO SUPPORT A RECOMMENDATION AT THE 22ND GOVERNING COUNCIL TO USE THE SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND FOR IN-COUNTRY EXPENSES OF UNV'S IN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

6. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE GOVERNING COUNCIL HAS AUTHORIZED THE USE BY THE UNV OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE PROGRAM RESERVE IN 1977 FOR PROGRAM EXPENSES. SISCO

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